

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 15 (as previously amended on February 22, 2007) with the following amended paragraph:

As shown by the first design sub-process SP1, a design sub-process may incorporate a number of different algorithms which interact with the variable set under the control or management of a rules engine R1-1. The set of variables 56 are all active and hence tend to drive the overall design process. However, the algorithms A1-1 and A1-2 also interact with other passive variables related by filling line 57 and manufacturing site 68 [[58]] which cannot be altered by A1-1 or A1-2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 36 with the following amended paragraph:

The group of algorithms and rules IA-1, IR-1 and IA-2 indicate that for example rules engine R1-1 [[1]] may monitor IA-1 and substitute IA-2 for IA-1 if certain predetermined conditions are met. IA-3 indicates that interface algorithms do not need to interact directly with interface variables. IA-3 can perform some intermediate task such as calculating a value from the passive variable with which it is associated and then passing this value to IA-1.